

**Senate File 2377 - Introduced**

SENATE FILE 2377

BY COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

(SUCCESSOR TO SF 2202)

(SUCCESSOR TO SSB 3067)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to education, including eligibility for grants  
2 under the teach Iowa scholar program, licenses issued by the  
3 board of educational examiners, and the use of revenues from  
4 the district management levy, and including applicability  
5 provisions.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 256.16, subsection 1, Code 2022, is  
2 amended by adding the following new paragraph:

3 NEW PARAGRAPH. *n.* If a higher education institution  
4 providing practitioner preparation offers a program that is  
5 designed to assist students in attaining a teacher intern  
6 license from the board of educational examiners, the program  
7 shall require participants to satisfy all of the following  
8 requirements before completing the program:

9 (1) A participant in the program must have graduated from an  
10 accredited or state-approved college or university.

11 (2) A participant in the program must have at least three  
12 years of post-baccalaureate work experience.

13 (3) A participant in the program must submit with the  
14 application to the program a copy of an offer of employment  
15 from a school.

16 (4) A participant in the program must have completed the  
17 required pedagogy training.

18 (5) A participant in the program must work under the  
19 supervision of a teacher leader assigned by the school district  
20 or accredited nonpublic school, including during co-teaching  
21 and planning time.

22 (6) A participant in the program must complete at least  
23 fifteen additional hours of coursework.

24 Sec. 2. Section 261.110, subsection 3, Code 2022, is amended  
25 by adding the following new paragraph:

26 NEW PARAGRAPH. *d.* The total value of grants awarded under  
27 this section each year to applicants who are preparing to  
28 teach in a school district, charter school, or an accredited  
29 nonpublic school shall be as follows:

30 (1) Fifty percent shall be awarded to applicants preparing  
31 to teach in a school district with less than or equal to one  
32 thousand two hundred students, a charter school with less than  
33 or equal to one thousand two hundred students, or an accredited  
34 nonpublic school with less than or equal to one thousand  
35 two hundred students. However, if the amount requested by

1 applicants pursuant to subparagraph (2) is less than the amount  
2 reserved for applicants under subparagraph (2), the commission  
3 may award the difference to applicants under this subparagraph.

4 (2) Fifty percent shall be awarded to applicants preparing  
5 to teach in a school district with greater than one thousand  
6 two hundred students, a charter school with greater than one  
7 thousand two hundred students, or an accredited nonpublic  
8 school with greater than one thousand two hundred students.  
9 However, if the amount requested by applicants pursuant  
10 to subparagraph (1) is less than the amount reserved for  
11 applicants under subparagraph (1), the commission may award the  
12 difference to applicants under this subparagraph.

13 Sec. 3. Section 272.2, subsection 1, Code 2022, is amended  
14 by adding the following new paragraph:

15 NEW PARAGRAPH. *d.* Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection  
16 establishing criteria for applicants for licenses who have  
17 completed an accredited or state-approved teacher preparation  
18 program and who are applying for the applicant's first Iowa  
19 teaching license shall not require the applicant to be an Iowa  
20 resident if the applicant provides the board with a copy of an  
21 offer of employment as a teacher from a school located in this  
22 state.

23 Sec. 4. Section 272.2, subsection 13, Code 2022, is amended  
24 to read as follows:

25 13. Adopt rules to provide for nontraditional preparation  
26 options for licensing persons who hold a bachelor's degree  
27 or higher from an accredited or state-approved college or  
28 university, who do not meet other requirements for licensure.  
29 The rules shall, at a minimum, require the board to do all of  
30 the following:

31 a. Issue a teacher intern license for instruction in grades  
32 six through twelve to an applicant who has completed a program  
33 established pursuant to section 256.16, subsection 1, paragraph  
34 "n".

35 b. Allow a licensee who has attained a teacher intern

1 license pursuant to paragraph "a" to apply for an initial  
2 teaching license if the school that employed the licensee  
3 during the licensee's completion of the program established  
4 pursuant to section 256.16, subsection 1, paragraph "n", and  
5 the higher education institution that operated the program,  
6 recommend that the licensee be allowed to apply for an initial  
7 teaching license.

8 Sec. 5. Section 272.2, Code 2022, is amended by adding the  
9 following new subsection:

10 NEW SUBSECTION. 27. Adopt rules pursuant to chapter  
11 17A that allow an individual seeking a career and technical  
12 secondary authorization to apply, and if eligible, be issued  
13 the secondary authorization prior to accepting an offer of  
14 employment with a school.

15 Sec. 6. Section 279.46, Code 2022, is amended to read as  
16 follows:

17 **279.46 Retirement incentives and teacher recruitment**  
18 **incentives — tax.**

19 1. The board of directors of a school district may adopt  
20 a program for payment of a monetary bonus, continuation of  
21 health or medical insurance coverage, or other incentives  
22 for encouraging its employees to retire before the normal  
23 retirement date as defined in [chapter 97B](#). The program is  
24 available only to employees who notify the board of directors  
25 prior to April 1 of the fiscal year that they intend to retire  
26 not later than the start of the next following school calendar.  
27 The age at which employees shall be designated eligible for the  
28 program shall be at the discretion of the board. An employee  
29 retiring under ~~this section~~ this subsection may apply for a  
30 retirement allowance under [chapter 97B](#) or [chapter 294](#). The  
31 board may include in the district management levy an amount to  
32 pay the total estimated accumulated cost to the school district  
33 of the health or medical insurance coverage, bonus, or other  
34 incentives for employees fifty-five years of age or older who  
35 retire under ~~this section~~ subsection.

1     2. a. The board of directors of a school district may  
2 adopt a program for teacher recruitment incentives to recruit  
3 new teachers. If the board does adopt a program for teacher  
4 recruitment incentives, the board shall adopt a policy to  
5 implement the program.

6     b. The board may include in the district management levy  
7 an amount to pay the total estimated accumulated cost to the  
8 school district of the teacher recruitment incentives adopted  
9 under this subsection.

10    c. The board shall not adopt either the program for early  
11 retirement benefits provided in subsection 1 or the program  
12 for teacher recruitment incentives provided in this subsection  
13 within two years after adopting the other program.

14    3. The board of directors of a school district shall  
15 discuss the adoption of the program for early retirement  
16 benefits provided in subsection 1 or the program for teacher  
17 recruitment incentives provided in subsection 2, as applicable,  
18 at a regular or special meeting prior to adopting the program.  
19 The board of directors of the school district shall provide  
20 sufficient time to receive public comment on the program. The  
21 board shall allow each interested member of the public to speak  
22 at the meeting regarding the program, but may impose a time  
23 limit on the amount of time a member of the public is allowed  
24 to speak if the time limit is the same for each speaker and  
25 necessary due to the amount of people wishing to speak. The  
26 board of directors of a school district shall not adopt the  
27 program for early retirement benefits provided in subsection  
28 1 concurrently with the program for teacher recruitment  
29 incentives provided in subsection 2.

30    Sec. 7. Section 298.4, subsection 1, paragraph e, Code 2022,  
31 is amended to read as follows:

32    e. To pay the cost of early retirement benefits to employees  
33 under [section 279.46](#), subsection 1, or teacher recruitment  
34 incentives under [section 279.46](#), subsection 2. A board of  
35 directors of a school district shall not expend the district

1 management levy on the costs of both programs in the same  
2 fiscal year.

3 Sec. 8. APPLICABILITY. The following applies to grants  
4 awarded by the college student aid commission on or after July  
5 1, 2022, to initial applicants under the teach Iowa scholar  
6 program established pursuant to section 261.110:

7 The section of this Act amending section 261.110.

8 EXPLANATION

9 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
10 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

11 This bill relates to education, including eligibility for  
12 grants under the teach Iowa scholar program, licenses issued  
13 by the board of educational examiners (BOEE), and the use of  
14 revenues from the district management levy.

15 The bill provides that if a higher education institution  
16 providing practitioner preparation offers a program that is  
17 designed to assist students in attaining a teacher intern  
18 license from the BOEE, the program shall require participants  
19 to satisfy certain specified requirements.

20 The teach Iowa scholar program, administered by the  
21 college student aid commission, provides grants to certain  
22 high-caliber, full-time teachers in Iowa in amounts not to  
23 exceed \$4,000 annually or \$20,000 over five years. The bill  
24 provides that the total value of grants awarded under the  
25 program to applicants who are preparing to teach in a school  
26 district, charter school, or an accredited nonpublic school  
27 shall be equally divided between applicants preparing to  
28 teach in a school district, charter school, or an accredited  
29 nonpublic school with less than or equal to 1,200 students and  
30 applicants preparing to teach in a school district, charter  
31 school, or accredited nonpublic school with greater than  
32 1,200 students. The bill authorizes the commission to award  
33 different amounts to each group of applicants if the amount  
34 requested by applicants of either group is less than the amount  
35 reserved for that group. The bill establishes that this

1 provision applies to grants awarded by the commission on or  
2 after July 1, 2022, to initial applicants under the program.

3 Current law authorizes the BOEE to issue a regional exchange  
4 teaching license to an applicant who has completed a teacher  
5 preparation program outside of the state and who is applying  
6 for the applicant's first Iowa teaching license if, among  
7 other requirements, the applicant is a resident of the state.  
8 The bill removes the requirement that such an applicant be a  
9 resident of this state if the applicant provides the BOEE with  
10 a copy of an offer of employment as a teacher from a school  
11 located in this state.

12 Current law requires the BOEE to adopt rules to provide  
13 for nontraditional preparation options for licensing persons  
14 who hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited college  
15 or university and who do not meet other requirements for  
16 licensure. The bill provides that the rules shall require  
17 the BOEE to issue a teacher intern license to an applicant  
18 who has completed a program offered by a higher education  
19 institution providing practitioner preparation that is designed  
20 to assist students in attaining a teacher intern license. The  
21 bill requires the BOEE to allow a licensee who has attained  
22 a teacher intern license under such a program to apply for  
23 an initial teaching license if the school that employed  
24 the licensee during the program and the higher education  
25 institution recommend that the licensee be allowed to apply.

26 The bill requires the BOEE to adopt rules that allow  
27 an individual seeking a career and technical secondary  
28 authorization to apply, and if eligible, be issued the  
29 secondary authorization prior to accepting an offer of  
30 employment with a school.

31 Currently, Code section 279.46 authorizes the board of  
32 directors of a school district to adopt a program for early  
33 retirement benefits to encourage its employees to retire before  
34 the normal retirement date. The bill modifies Code section  
35 279.46 to also authorize the board of directors to adopt a

1 program for teacher recruitment incentives to recruit new  
2 teachers. The bill requires the board of directors to discuss  
3 the adoption of the program for early retirement benefits or  
4 the program for teacher recruitment incentives, as applicable,  
5 at a regular or special meeting prior to adopting the program  
6 and allow for public comment. The bill prohibits the board  
7 of directors from adopting the program for early retirement  
8 benefits concurrently with the program for teacher recruitment  
9 incentives. The bill also prohibits the board of directors  
10 from adopting either the program for early retirement benefits  
11 or the program for teacher recruitment incentives within two  
12 years after adopting the other program.

13 The bill authorizes the board of directors to expend the  
14 district management levy to pay the costs of either the program  
15 for early retirement benefits or the program for teacher  
16 recruitment incentives. The bill prohibits the board of  
17 directors from expending the district management levy on the  
18 costs of both programs in the same fiscal year.